

BLYTHBURGH

FOCUS

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Issue No 75

<http://blythburgh.onesuffolk.net>

June/July 2024

BLYTHBURGH DAY 4TH AUGUST 2024

Blythburgh Day will be held this year on **Sunday August 4th** in the gardens of The Priory.

Admission is free and the day is open to everyone in the village, their friends and family and will run from 12 to 5. Entrance will be via the rear gate of The Priory near the Village Hall.

The day will be based on last year's successful Coronation Day and you are invited to bring your own picnic. Tea, coffee, cakes, soft drinks, beer and wine will be available to purchase. We are in the process of organising the day, but you can look forward to music, some stalls, a raffle, a fun dog show, games and the opportunity to catch up with friends and neighbours.

An open air service will be held in the ruins at 11 am and we will be remembering Lt. Joseph P Kennedy Jr and Lt. Wilford John Willy whose explosive-laden Liberator bomber exploded over Blythburgh 80 years ago on the 12th of August 1944 at around 6pm. We look forward to seeing you on the day.



Issue 75

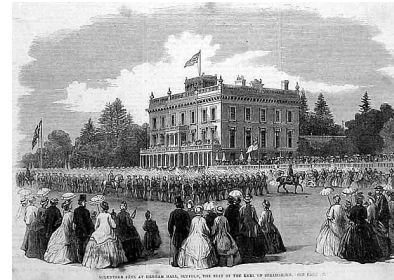
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RECOLLECTIONS OF A TRUE LIFE: PART 3

When the 3rd Earl of Stradbroke died in 1947 Henham was a big estate stretching as far as Reydon, Westhall and almost to Beccles. Leonard Everson, working to Mr Fleming the agent, continued to be very busy. A lot of materials and men were needed to repair the farm buildings. Leonard sourced materials from Lowestoft, buying second hand from bombed out houses; "most of it was very good, half the price of new, and well-seasoned".

Her Ladyship, who had been in failing health for some time, died in 1949. After her death, most of the Estate was sold leaving just eight or nine farms to keep in repair. Leonard didn't need such a big team and many of the workers were paid off. The new Earl (4th Earl of Stradbroke) moved into Park Farm and the Hall furniture was sold at auction. Leonard was at the Hall for a week as things were put on view ahead of the auction. Everything sold but it was a challenging time as there were a number of thefts which went unsolved.

There were more thefts, including the steel staircase, when the old Hall was pulled down in 1953. This time they did find the culprits and Leonard believed they were the same people who had stolen things at the time of the auction. The accompanying pictures (courtesy of Alan Mackley) contrast the Hall's sad end in 1953 with its mid-Victorian peak as shown in the Illustrated London News engraving of the 1860s.



Leonard and his small team continued to work for the 4th Earl turning their hands to whatever was needed: building new walls, laying water pipes, refurbished cottages and digging a fish pond. This fish pond was opened up for fishing with no fee but, as this was abused, after a couple of years they levied a charge and by 1969 the balance stood at a healthy £100.

Leonard picks up his story "I was sorry to retire but I knew a year before that I would have to retire when I was 65, as I knew there was something wrong with me. Even now I dream at nights I am doing some jobs on the estate with my old gang of years ago. They would do anything

for me, if I wanted them to. Stop an hour to finish a job rather than run there the next day. We worked as a team and enjoyed it.”

Recollections of a True Life were told by Leonard Everson to Stadbroke at Henham in August 1971 and my thanks go to SL for access to the original document.

Sonia Boggis

BLYTHBURGH LATITUDE TRUST: 2024 LATITUDE FESTIVAL

With the Latitude Festival planning in full swing, the Trustees met with Festival organisers to discuss a number of items and were delighted to secure additional Local Resident Tickets for the 2024 Festival.

The application deadline for Local Resident Tickets to the 2024 Latitude Festival was 5th May. The Trustees completed the ballots on 8th May and, even with the additional tickets, were unable to allocate tickets to all applicants.

All applicants have been advised if they were successful or not. BUT, please remember, if you have been successful YOU must have confirmed your details and made payment by cheque or cash by Friday 7th June. Failure to do this may result in your tickets being passed to people on the waiting list.

Key information from Festival Republic covering opening times, Traffic plans, parking and a complaints number is not currently available. However, once available this information will be posted in the Village notice boards.

Jim Boggis (Administrator)

Trustees: Val Carse, Malcolm Doney, Sue Ireland-Cutting, Paul Lacey, Roderick Orr-Ewing, Tom Smith, Harry Waller, Sarah Wickham





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BLYTHBURGH NATURE NOTES

Our first summer migrant was a Chiffchaff on the 18th of March, and the next day three Common Crane were seen heading North over the Blyth, as well as a Red Kite.

In early April, both an Osprey and Spoonbill were seen on the Blyth, while on the 16th a large movement of Northern waders were present on Angel Marsh, including up to five hundred and twenty-eight Black-tailed Godwit and eighty one Red Knot. A fine mixture of other waders have also been seen during this period, with up to five Grey Plover, seven Greenshank, a Little Stint and three of the rarer Temminck's Stint. Up to five Spotted Redshank have also been regular, several of the latter in their fine black summer plumage. A short-eared Owl has also been seen on a number of occasions, even hunting the saltings just behind the White Hart.

One unusual occurrence was the early appearance of butterflies, such as the delicate Holly Blue and Orange tip, the latter before its main food plant, Garlic Mustard, had even appeared.

Just beyond our boundary at Wangford, up to four Cattle Egret frequented fields near Henham Quarry and even more recently a Hoopoe spent several days in Wangford Quarry.

Most unusually along our coast four species of North American duck have been present, almost certainly brought across the Atlantic in those severe late Autumn storms. A Surf Scoter is still present off Walberswick in the Common Scoter flock, while five Lesser Scaup turned up on the Island Mere at Minsmere, these where almost certainly the birds that wintered at Abberton Reservoir in Essex. A Green-winged Teal was seen at Carlton Marshes and a Ring-necked Duck was at Thorpe Mere and several other sites.

Most of the summer migrants have now arrived, with good numbers of warblers, particularly Common and Lesser Whitethroat, Garden Warbler and Blackcap, along with Cuckoo, Yellow Wagtail and Wheatear. The only regular missing species so far are Turtle Dove and Spotted Flycatcher.

I Nonowt

The Blythburgh Latitude Trust is making grants

**The Blythburgh Latitude Trust
makes grants to individual
parishioners, families and
organisations to meet specific
needs.**

**For your grant, contact
the honorary administrator,
Jim Boggis, Marsh End,
Church Road, (478 687)**

**All applications will be treated in
complete confidence.**

Apply now

**The trustees are Sarah Wickham, Val Carse, Malcolm Doney,
Roderick Orr-Ewing, Paul Lacey, Sue Ireland-Cutting, Harry
Waller and Tom Smith**

Your Parish Councillors

Chair: Roderick Orr-Ewing

Planning Advisory Committee:
Paul Lacey

Finance Advisory Committee:
Roderick Orr-Ewing,
Al Besly

Councillors: Matthew Saunders,
Ashleigh Sendin, Jude Blois, Claire
Orr-Ewing, Harriet Strachan

Clerk: Al Besly

Blythburgh Associations

Blythburgh Latitude Trust
Jim Boggis 01502 478687

Film Club
Olive Forsythe 01502 478521

Village Hall Management C'tee
bookings@blythburghvillagehall.org.uk

Horticultural Society
Val Carse 07973 389898

Blythburgh Matters
Ro Williams 01502 478484

Blyth Belles
Sarah Wickham blythbelles@gmail.com

www.blythburgh.onesuffolk.net

JUNE EVENTS AT HALESWORTH LIBRARY

Our headliner this month is an *illustrated talk* on poems inspired by art which will be given by Tamar Yoseloff on Thursday 27th June, 7.30 p.m.. Ms Yoseloff's debut book won the Aldeburgh Festival Poetry Prize, and she currently lectures at Newcastle University. She will discuss her own work as well as poems influenced by Monet, abstract expressionist painting and Greek sculpture.

This month also sees three sessions of our regular *Sociable Sunday* events (2nd, 16th and 30th June). You can drop in any time between 10.30 - 12.30 and enjoy meeting new people, and chat over a cuppa and a slice of cake.

The *Board Games Café* takes place on the last Monday of the month (24th June). It's open to all ages and abilities. There will be a range of games available, come and meet new friends, have fun, and enjoy tea and cake in our welcoming space. Feel free to bring your own board game along! No need to book. Drop in any time between 2.00 - 4.00.

All events will take place in Halesworth Library and are organised by the Friends of Halesworth Library. Attendance is free, though donations to cover the cost of refreshments are appreciated. It helps our planning (how many biscuits to buy etc) if you can let us know if you plan to attend the book talks.

You can email us at friendsofhalesworthlibrary@gmail.com or speak to the library assistants.



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HOLY TRINITY, BLYTHBURGH

New nave altar to be dedicated by Bishop

When we were allowed back into the church as the pandemic began to wane, we exercised social distancing (remember that!!) and took to holding our services in the nave of the church – before, we had used the choir stalls and the Hopton Chapel for all morning services except when we expected large congregations. Once we no longer needed to keep our distance, we decided that we quite liked being in the nave, with its spaciousness and light. However, this meant using an improvised altar for communion services rather than the high altar. (We used to have a nave altar, but it was taken in a burglary back in 2008.)

When the Church Council decided that we needed to acquire a new nave altar, Charles Morris designed a very elegant and practical table. This has been made by local craftsmen using local oak donated for the purpose, and the work was funded by a donation from Mr John O'Brien, a Friend of Holy Trinity, in memory of Richard Parish, and by a grant from the Friends collectively. We are very grateful to them.

The new altar will be dedicated by Mike, Bishop of Dunwich, in our morning service at **11.15am on Sunday 9 June**. Do come and join us – or pop into the church and admire this very beautiful addition to its furnishings.

Aldeburgh Festival in Blythburgh Church

Monday 10 June, 8pm 'Mystic Ritual': Created especially for Blythburgh Church at dusk, this flow of music spans millennia and links two of the earliest female composers with classics of the choral repertoire.

Friday 21 and Saturday 22 June, 8pm, 'Curlew River', the first of Britten's three "Parables for Church Performance", based on the Japanese Noh play Sumidagawa.

**At the time of writing all three concerts are sold out, but it is worth trying for returns. Contact Brittenpearsarts.org*

Bellringing has long been a feature of the Aldeburgh Festival. This year Blythburgh has been asked to join. On **Sunday 23 June** the church bells will be rung from 10.30 followed by handbells at 11.00 rung by St Edmunds Handbell Group, to include Badingham Chime, a piece written by Imogen Holst for the 22nd Aldeburgh Festival in 1969. At 11.30 members of the Suffolk Guild of Ringers will ring a Quarter peal. A small photo display will be on show. Light refreshments will be available.

Take a break

Come and join us for coffee, cake, and to browse the stalls at our ever-popular Blythburgh café and mini market on **Friday 28 June and Friday 26 July, 10.30 to noon**.

FEATURING THREE BLYTHBURGH ARTISTS

Work by Malcolm Doney, Mary Gundry and Alan Rutter, will be included in this inaugural exhibition.

17 Suffolk artists & artisans

Summer²⁴ Showcase

location

Holton Lodge Barn Gallery

The Street Holton IP19 8PN

dates

Sat 1 to Sun 9 June '24

11 to 5 daily

a Suffolk Open Studios Hub



Ros Bieber

Lin Carter

Malcolm Doney

Jill Draper

Sally Erb

Liz Goulding

Mary Gundry

Claire Halsey

Wil Harvey

Mary Heller

Marianne Koby Johnson

Ruth McCabe

Sara McLaughlin

Christopher Milham

Norma Read

Alan Rutter

Paul Zawadzki

BLYTHBURGH HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY: THE GROWING SEASON IS UPON US!

For our first outing of the year members will gather for a trip to Middleton Open Gardens on June 1. Members can expect an eclectic and exciting mix of gardens, some conventional and formal, others more informal or relaxed. Several of the gardeners cleverly borrow the beautiful surrounding Suffolk landscape, to attract animals, insects, plants, and birds.

This visit is quickly followed by the eagerly anticipated visit of Bob Flowerdew to speak on the topic of "No Work Gardening". Bob joins us in the Village Hall on June 14. Numbers are limited and entry is by ticket only so please talk to a committee member if you are interested in coming along.

Also, just a reminder that our Annual Summer Show, described by our Chair as "Blythburgh's fiercely competitive, but friendly summer fruit, veg and produce show", is open to all and will take place on Saturday 20 July so remember to start planning and planting for this event.

If you'd like to join the Horticultural Society, or want to know more about what we do, please get in touch (sonia.boggis@btinternet.com); membership is still at the bargain price of £5 a year!

Sonia Boggis, Secretary

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SOLICITORS & NOTARIES

BLYTH BELLES

The Blyth Belles have been treated to some fantastic evenings in March, April and May. The March meeting was a hugely interesting talk from the East Anglian Air Ambulance. The work they do is amazing - covering Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by air and road. They cover calls from road traffic collisions to cardiac arrests to medical emergencies. The specialist doctors, critical care paramedics and pilots bring the advanced skills, equipment and medicine directly to whoever needs it, in the fastest time possible.

One of their aims is to minimise the impact of trauma in the community by providing vital first aid training, so more people can take action if someone nearby suffers a medical emergency. The missions they attend are often life-changing for patients. By offering dedicated aftercare support, they are helping more patients and their families with their recovery journeys.

It was a well attended evening much enjoyed by all and the Belles were delighted to make a substantial donation to this amazing organisation.

In April we had a similarly fascinating talk from the Bloodrunners who do amazing work. They provide an essential service to our local NHS Hospitals, Air Ambulance Services, Human Donated Milk Banks, hospices, pharmacies and vulnerable patients by transporting urgently needed blood, blood products, patient samples, donated human breast milk, medicine and medical equipment. There are approximately 160

volunteers including duty controllers who take calls and organise the volunteer motorcyclists and car drivers, who give their time and mostly use their own vehicles free of charge.

Suffolk and Cambridgeshire receives no government funding so the Belles were delighted to make a substantial donation. One of the ways this organisation raises funds is by refurbishing mobile phones. So get your old mobiles to Mary Gundry by the end of June when she will organise for them to be collected.

For the May meeting the Belles were treated to a cookery demonstration by Nanna Lay who, being Danish, created some delicious



Danish Cinnamon whirls and Danish pastries with rhubarb and strawberry fillings along with chocolate and prune fillings.



All were devoured just out of the oven by the small but very appreciative group. Recipes were handed out and if anyone couldn't come along but would like to make some pastries, just contact Mary Gundry for a copy (Mob:07760178195). Nanna said she enjoyed the evening and would

be willing to do something savoury for the Belles next year.

Val Carse and Mary Gundry

VILLAGER OF THE YEAR

Each year, Blythburgh names its Villager of the Year for their contribution to village life. These individuals are nominated by residents. Please let the Parish Council know who gets your vote. A candidate can be anyone who lives in the village, unless they are a serving member of the Parish Council.

Please nominate the person you think deserves this accolade and deliver it in a sealed envelope, marked 'Villager of the Year' to, Roderick Orr-Ewing, Chair of the Parish Council at Mill End Dunwich Road, Blythburgh, or else you can send an email nominating your candidate, together with your reasons, to the Clerk of the Parish Council, at blythburgh.pc@gmail.com by Friday June 28th.

VILLAGER OF THE YEAR

Name:

Proposer/s:.....

Reasons for nomination:

.....
.....

The presentation will be made on Blythburgh Day on 4th August. The winner receives £50 with his or her name on the honours board in the Village Hall.

DAISYBANK CXVIII

Our recently diagnosed diabetic Siamese Seal Point cat has killed ten rats in the last couple of weeks and has successfully resolved our problems in that direction. I think it was a thank you from him for the shed loads of money that we have spent on trying to get him better. In the end, it came down to relying on his expertise or calling in the Pied Piper of Hamlyn to help us out. Nothing against country rats apart from the fact that they breed excessively unlike the squirrels who don't. With the leftover rats having moved on to pastures new, the squirrels can now just get on with biting through our electrical cables up in the loft!

Have you noticed, everything is late this year. Our magnificent Rambling Rector climbing rose should be in full bloom but isn't. And the roses in general are looking a bit sad and I suppose it goes along with us looking a bit sad as well. But hey ho. We live in hope for a glorious summer and a break from this incessant rain. Rain was never a problem for me when I lived in the hot countries. With impossibly high humidity, it was a relief when the rain came down in stair rod form and almost knocked you down with its force and quantity. But now grey days with persistent rain are just plain miserable. The only bonus is that it keeps the car clean.

Recently Michael Portillo – the man who was being groomed for PM under the Thatcher years – has continued his excellent series on railway journeys around the British Isles. And of course when it came to our turn, it was the usual Adnams section and the obligatory Danni Church and her ferry across the Blyth between Walberswick and Southwold. How many times have we seen these same items in other documentaries? Perhaps one day they will feature Blythburgh and our magnificent church. True, we have had the odd mention over the years but what about the most spectacular view of the church from over the Appleton Marshes at the back of Daisy Bank. Surely there is no more amazing view anywhere in East Anglia than that. I implore those of you who haven't walked inland along the south bank of the Blyth and, from about half a mile away, not looked back at Blythburgh, to do so. One can't help feeling proud of where we live when you see that incredible sight.

Paul Bennett

WILD NOTES

Some 40 years ago, I worked as a computer programmer. In the days before laptops, mobile 'phones and tablets, I wrote software that sorted data, created programs collating data, processing stock control, and producing reports for the sales and marketing teams. Long before Bill Gates and Steve Jobs devised now-universal applications, my colleagues and I worked on a mainframe computer. In a large air-conditioned room, this device churned out information to help those who ran the business. But as with so much we have 'invented', nature got there long before us.

I'm sure that many of us in Blythburgh have experienced, when enjoying an al-fresco meal, being bothered by wasps buzzing round the jam and ants attacking the sandwiches. These creatures belong to what are called social insects. The individuals that raid a picnic party are the workers of what is, essentially, a large society; they are all related

Lasius niger black garden ant swarm



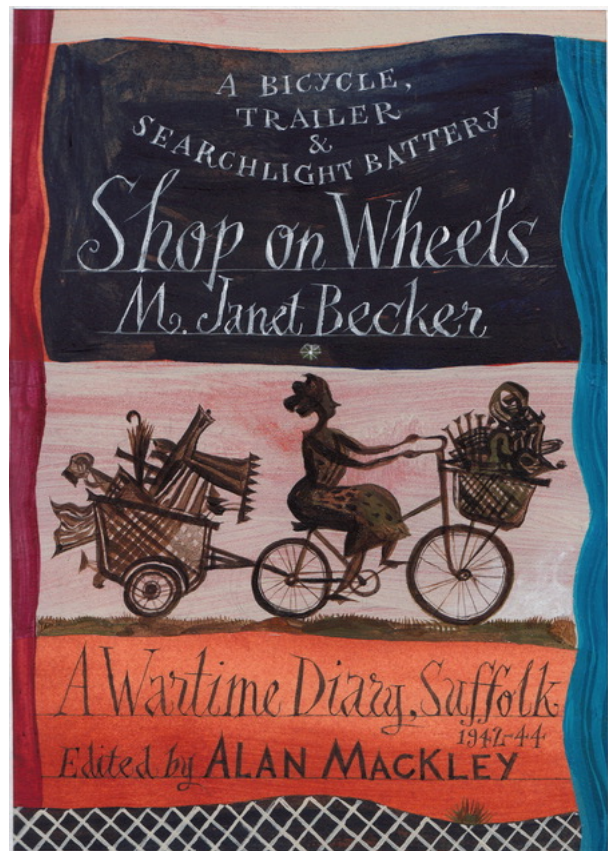
to one another and programmed to carry out orders. The 'mainframe' of this society is the queen. Wasps, ants and, of course, many species of bee, follow this pattern of behaviour. Whilst their communities can comprise many thousands of individuals, they operate like one single organism. The queen issues orders to her workers through her pheromones, giving each a particular function to perform; excavating nest chambers, caring for the grubs, procuring food. The whole community thus benefits from the actions of individuals: a form of Utopia. One could easily liken this process to a system of computing. A set of instructions distributed via separate programs, and obeyed with exactitude. This resembles how things ought to work at a human-level – employees, working for a business, controlled by a Board and co-operating to benefit the company. At least, this is how The West is supposed to be run.

But societies are now totally reliant on internet-based, computer-driven systems. We've also become largely reliant on Social Media, run by entrepreneurs and so-called 'influencers'. If the World-Wide Web was to be fatally corrupted by malign forces or 'crash', much of humanity would likely suffer an existential crisis matching any natural catastrophe. It would be like removing or destroying the queen at the heart of an insect colony. It's obvious that many of the messages that are shared on the multifarious platforms are false, malicious and do NOT benefit the wider community. One could call it Distopia.

Paul Lacey

SHOP ON WHEELS

Edited by Alan Mackley and illustrated by Jeff Fisher. A book by Blythburgh residents about Janet Becker's war years. Janet Becker's spiritual home was Blythburgh - she wrote about it, is buried here and has a memorial in the church. It is priced at £5 and all profits go to charity. A review will follow in the next Focus.



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